A Representation of Great Evils, Arising by the Exportation of *Wooll*.

47 (24)

Shewing how it affects the Poor, Trade *and* Traders, Lands, *and the* King *and* Kingdom *in general, with a short View of an easie Remedy, Humbly offer'd to the Honourable House of Commons,*

By William Woodford.

I. EXportation of *Wooll* will certainly Impoverish and Weaken our own Nation, and Enrich and Strengthen others.

By taking away the Employment of our *Poor*, and employing *Foreigners*.

By Ruining Our Trade of the *Woollen Manufactures*, and Dependers thereupon, and

By Enabling *France*, *Holland* and *Flanders*, &c. (now greatly striving for that End) to deprive us of it.

II. Want of Employment for the *Poor* will be a Cause,

Of Great Charges upon Lands and Estates to Maintain them;

Or of their Starving:

Or of Exporting themselves whither *Wool* is Exported, *&c.*

And Starving or Exporting themselves for want of Employment, will not only be a Cause of the falling of the Value of *Lands*, by lessening the Number of the Consumers of the Products thereof, but also of Weakening the Nation; for the fewer the People shall be, the less the value of Lands must needs be, and the less the Strength of the Nation.

And maintaining them here in Idleness (which is the bane of Humane Nature) will also Empoverish the Nation, and be of very dangerous Consequence.

For the Poorer the Nation shall be, tho' Populous, the less its Defence.

If Riches may be allow'd to be the Sinews of War, a Thing never to be disregarded.

So that 'twill be bad for the Nation, if the *Poor People* shall live here under such Idle and Chargeable Circumstances, or Starve, or go Away.

III. The less Occasion there shall be of our *Manufactures* abroad (by means of the Exportation of *Wooll*,)

The less Occasion for Shipping, and the Poorer and Weaker the Nation in General must needs be.

Our Manufactures Exported (and not the single Products of our Lands) being the chief Cause of our Riches, which are brought from other Nations in return for the same.

IV. It has been calculated by a mean Proportion, that the Nation loses Six or Seven times the Value of all *Wooll* Exported by its being *Manufactured* by *Foreigners*, instead of our own People (all that's got by Labour, Industry and Art, being clearly gain'd) and the loss already has been accounted to be between Two and Three Millions *per Annum* by that Rule (which is very much within the Compass of Possibility and Probability.)

V. Exportation of *Wooll* has been modestly reckon'd [illegible]

Or of Exporting themſelves whither *Wool* is Exported, *&c.*

And Starving or Exporting themſelves for want of Employment, will not only be a Cauſe of the falling of the Value of *Lands*, by leſſening the Number of the Conſumers of the Products thereof, but alſo of Weakening the Nation; for the fewer the People ſhall be, the leſs the value of Lands muſt needs be, and the leſs the Strength of the Nation.

And maintaining them here in Idleneſs (which is the bane of Humane Nature) will alſo Empoveriſh the Nation, and be of very dangerous Conſequence.

For the Poorer the Nation ſhall be, tho' Populous, the leſs its Defence.

If Riches may be allow'd to be the Sinews of War, a Thing never to be diſregarded.

So that 'twill be bad for the Nation, if the *Poor People* ſhall live here under ſuch Idle and Chargeable Circumſtances, or Starve, or go Away.

III. The leſs Occaſion there ſhall be of our *Manufactures* abroad (by means of the Exportation of *Wooll*,)

The leſs Occaſion for Shipping, and the Poorer and Weaker the Nation in General muſt needs be.

Our Manufactures Exported (and not the ſingle Products of our Lands) being the chief Cauſe of our Riches, which are brought from other Nations in return for the ſame.

IV. It has been calculated by a mean Proportion, that the Nation loſes Six or Seven times the Value of all *Wooll* Exported by its being *Manufactured* by *Foreigners*, inſtead of our own People (all that's got by Labour, Induſtry and Art, being clearly gain'd) and the loſs already has been accounted to be between Two and Three Millions *per Annum* by that Rule (which is very much within the Compaſs of Poſſibility and Probability.)

V. Exportation of *Wooll* has been modeſtly reckon'd to be 60000 *l. per Annum* loſs to the *King*, in his Cuſtoms Outwards, beſides the conſequential Loſs Inwards, much greater.

And theſe Evils may ſtill increaſe without prevention, and if ſo, then we may by degrees be prejudicially ſupply'd by *Foreigners*, with their *Manufactures* made of our *Wooll*, inſtead of our ſupplying them; and ſo our Loſs will be double.

VI. There are ſeveral well-Intended Laws already made for Remedy thereof, but the ſame could not be effectually put in Execution, for want of a Fund to defray the Charge of the Management of ſo good a Work.

VII. If your Honours ſhall be pleas'd, by a new, more effectual Law, to eſtabliſh a neceſſary Fund, for Salleries for a ſufficient Number of proper Officers, to be legally deputed to hinder the Exportation of *Wooll*, under the management of Men, well Skill'd and Intereſted in the *Woollen Manufactures*, according to late Votes of Parliament, it is undoubtedly believed that theſe Evils will ſoon have an End.

All which is humbly offer'd to the Great Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe with all Submiſſion, &c.

circa 1699